GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:43
ANSWERED ON:21.11.2002
CRASH OF MIG AIRCRAFT
CHANDRAKANT BHAURAO KHAIRE;MARGARET ALVA

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there had been a spate of accidents involving MIG aircraft the latest being the collision of two naval aircraft on Goan coast;

(b) if so, the number of incidents of aircraft crash during the last three months;

(c) whether the Government have conducted any enquiry into the causes of each accident;

(d) if so, the outcome thereof and the steps taken by the Government to avoid recurrence of such incidents in future;

(e) the compensation paid to each victim;

(f) whether the families of the victims have demanded higher compensation;
(g) if so, the Government`s stand thereon;
(h) whether the Government have taken any decision to ground the entire MIG Squadron now in operation; and
(i) if not, the steps taken by the Government to modernise MIG fleet?

Answer

MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES)

(a) to (i): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO
(i) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 43 FOR 21.11.2002

A total number of seven Category-I (Cat-I) aircraft accidents have taken place in Indian Air Force in the last three months.The two naval aircraft, which collided over Goa, were IL-38 and not MiG aircraft.Out of the seven Cat-I accidents, there were five accidents involving MiG-21, one involving HPT-32 and one Jaguar.

Courts of Inquiry have been set up to investigate the causes of these accidents and are still in progress. The amount of compensation to be paid will be determined by the Courts of Inquiry. Demands for higher compensation by the families, if any, will be known only after the completion of the Courts of Inquiry.

Since the safety of the MiG-21 aircraft has never been in doubt, Government has not taken any decision to ground the fleet of MiG-21.

MiG-21 aircraft are in the process of being modernised. Already one squadron of MiG-21BIS aircraft has been upgraded.A total of 125 aircraft would be upgraded by 2005.